GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:935
ANSWERED ON:08.02.2017
Registration of migrants
Sreeramulu Shri B.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has strengthened its online mechanism for registration of migrants especially women and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has launched 'e-Migrate Project' to automate the current emigration processes and eco-system and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the list of top ten countries where migrant workers are employed from India;

(d) the list of Indian States which showed upward trend in emigration clearances with the number of registered recruiting agencies; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for the welfare and safety of Indian migrant workers abroad during the year 2016?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) The Government has strengthened its online mechanism for registration of all Emigration Check Required (ECR) passport holders, including women through the introduction of eMigrate system. The project helps in making the recruitment of workers a transparent, accountable and smooth process and curtails malpractices by different stake holders. Constant technical support is available to various users of eMigrate through a 24x7 dedicated helpdesk. The performance of the eMigrate system is closely monitored, in consultation with the stake holders concerned, to make the system more efficient and improved from time to time.

(c) & (d) Statements are attached at Annexure-I and Annexure-II respectively.

(e) In view of the complaints of exploitation and harassment of the domestic sector workers by unscrupulous agents and employers in the Gulf countries, the Government has taken additional measures during 2016, to safeguard the interests of Indian workers, especially female workers migrating to ECR countries. Their online emigration for overseas employment is permitted only through the six designated state-run recruitment agencies or directly by the Foreign Employer registered on e-Migrate system. In case of direct recruitment by Foreign Employer, attestation of visa by the Indian Mission in the destination country and submission of a bank guarantee of US $ 2500 is mandatory before the emigration clearance is granted on-line by the Office of the Protectors of Emigrants.

Government of India has signed an agreement with Saudi Arabia in April, 2016 for welfare and protection of General Category Workers in addition to the already existing agreement on Domestic Sector Workers. Similar MoUs already exist with 6 Gulf countries, Jordan and Malaysia. These MOUs are renewed / signed afresh, from time to time, during which process any modifications are duly considered for inclusion.

In addition, the Government has several safeguards and initiatives in place to protect the interests of Indian nationals. The Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF), aimed at assisting Overseas Indian nationals abroad in times of distress on a means tested basis in the most deserving cases, has already been extended to all Indian Missions and Posts abroad. The Indian Worker Resource Centre (IWRC) have also been setup that provide guidance and counselling on all matters pertaining to overseas Indian workers. IWRC, Dubai is already functional and four more IWRCs have been approved in Sharjah (UAE), Riyadh and Jeddah (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) and Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia). Shelter homes for distressed Indian nationals have been setup in Bahrain, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, UAE and Malaysia. Missions in Gulf countries also conduct Open Houses on a regular basis where workers can convey their grievances. Some Missions have established 24x7 helplines and Toll Free helplines.

The MADAD portal enables the emigrant workers and their family members to register their grievances online and track their redressal. The multi-lingual 24X7 Helpline of Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) in Gurugram, Haryana provides information and guidance on all matters and problems pertaining to overseas employment of Indian nationals. Migrant Resource Centres have also been setup in Kochi, Hyderabad Gurugram, Chennai and Lucknow.